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THE SON OF WALLINGFORD

Photoplay in eight reels.

Story, continuity and direction by Mr.
and Mrs. George Randolph Chester

Author, Vitagraph Company of America, of
the U. S. as employer for hire

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THE SON OF WALLINGFORD

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Jimmy Wallingford is the son of a good honest mother and of a notorious confidence man known as GET RICH QUICK WALLINGFORD. The boy was born with lobeless ears, stigmatized by Lombroso in his book on Criminal Man, as a mark of criminal degeneracy. This has worried the father who does not wish his son to become a "crook".

The son Jimmy and his foster brother Toad Jesseup trick the father into giving them a new automobile which the father had bought for himself. Through a quarrel over this, Jimmy leaves home, accompanied by Toad, going away with the avowed intention of finding out for himself whether his lobeless ear does indicate a criminal tendency.

Under the name of the Wall Brothers, they locate in Fawnlake City, where Jimmy falls in love with Mary Curtis, and they start digging an oil well on her father's land. The boys run out of money and go home to sell their car. Get Rich Quick Wallingford and his partner, Blackie Daw, are not at home. No one knows where they are. The boys return after two weeks to Fawnlake City, accompanied by Mrs. Wallingford and Mrs. Daw, and find Get Rich Quick Wallingford and Blackie perpetrating a bizarre real estate boom, their local partner being the leading banker, known as Honest Henry Beegoode.

When the men find that they have, by accident, stumbled on the town where Jimmy and Toad have located, they give up their real estate deal and intend to slip out of Fawnlake City before any one can connect them with the boys, but before they can do so, Bert Beegoode, the son of Henry, returns from college, recognizes Jimmy as the Son of Get Rich Quick Wallingford, and brings him into public disrepute, thus breaking up the love affair between Jimmy and Mary, Bert thereby furthering his own chances of winning Mary for himself.

Both Get Rich Quick Wallingford and Jimmy resolve then to stay in Fawnlake City and be revenged on the Beegoodes, intending to prove that Henry is not honest and Bert not virtuous.

In furtherance of this, Get Rich Quick Wallingford buys Henry Beegoode's land for cash, accepting a bill of sale in lieu of a deed, but apparently by accident, he gives Henry both copies of the bill of sale, then develops a secret ink copy for himself. Thereupon he pretends to strike an oil well on the land he has just bought from Henry, pumping the oil into the "well" through some abandoned gas pipes. Henry Beegoode

finds that he has both copies of the bill of sale, and believing his land to be of immense value, succumbs to the temptation of claiming the land for his own, which he can do because there were no witnesses to the transaction, except Mr. Wallingford, Mr. Daw, Henry and his son Bert. He consequently brings suit.

In the meantime, Jimmy's friends, some show girls, tempt Dr. Beegode into some absurdly compromising situations, which they photograph. Before these photographs can be used for discrediting Bert with Mary Curtis, the boys strike their oil well, and the town of Fawnlake City becomes oil mad. The citizens go to Henry Beegode, believing that he is the owner of Wallingford's land, and their money tempts Henry into selling land which he does not own, he believing that the trial will establish his ownership. He makes a great deal of money through selling this oil land, and wanting more to sell, offers the boys and Mary's father a quarter of a million dollars for their land and oil well.

The boys start down to Henry's office to take up this offer, but while they're on their way, Jimmy's father and Blackie Daw discover they have a leak in their pipe line and figure that the boys are getting their oil from this leak. Jimmy's father would conceal this fact from the boys and continue to pump oil into their well until they could get Henry Beegode's money, but Jimmy's mother compels Get Rich Quick Wallingford to confess the truth to Jimmy. Jimmy thereupon denounces his father for having almost compelled him to be "crooked" against his knowledge, and also wants to know of his mother why she brought him up under his father's influence, why she did not let one of them go. Her answer is that she loved them both. This brings about a family reconciliation, after which Jimmy's inherited shrewdness asserts itself. Learning that his father's scheme was to pump oil into this well until the boys could sell it, he reflects that he had not offered to sell Henry Beegode the oil well nor the land, but the stock in the Big Hope Oil Company, which controlled the land and the oil well, and that he can do this with perfect safety.

He starts over to Henry Beegode's office to perpetrate this business trick, and be revenged on the Beegodes, but when he comes to signing over the certificates, the honesty inherited from his mother comes uppermost in him, and settles forever the question in his mind as to whether or not a man with a lobeless ear can have honest tendencies. He declines to sell the oil well, very much to the distress of the Curtis family, and after the meeting, meets Mary in the park, shows her the compromising photographs of Bert, apologises for his unethical attitude in this matter, and begs her to forgive him. Instead of forgiving him, Mary tears up the photographs, declares that Bert's downfall was Jimmy's fault, and that she will marry Bert.

anyhow, and she goes away from Jimmy in anger. At this moment, however, Onion Jones and Petrogad Pete, two stupid fellows who are helpers of Wallingford and Daw, are hunting for the secret ink copy of the bill of sale, which they have stolen and hidden for their own advantage. In finding it they drop a lantern near the oil tanks and a fire starts. Jimmy sees this fire, and in the hope that he can put it out before the flames reach the oil tanks, jumps into a row boat and starts across the lake. Before he reached the other side the first tank explodes and the other tanks and the derrick catch fire. The lake is hidden in smoke. Burning oil spreads on the water. Jimmy is hidden in the smoke. Mary sees his peril, realizes that she loves him, and jumping into a swift little motor boat, goes out to find Jimmy. Both are lost in the smoke, are overcome by it and rendered unconscious, while the burning oil spreads closely to them. Toad Jessup swims out into the smoke after them. Meantime, the citizens, to prevent the fire from spreading to the town, decide to open the sluice gates of the dam and empty the lake, leaving the burning oil to settle in the center and burn itself out. This would leave Jimmy, Mary and Toad helpless on the mud amid the burning oil, and to prevent this, Wallingford, on the sluice gate platform, confesses that the whole oil scheme is a fake, that they only had one tank of oil and that there could be no further dangerous explosions. He corroborates this by pointing to another explosion which clearly reveals an empty tank. The citizens thereupon turn on Wallingford and Blackie, holding them responsible for the fake. Wallingford assures them that the only dishonest person in town is Henry Beegood, and starts to produce the paper which will prove this, but his secret ink copy of the bill of sale has been stolen. Henry and his daughter Caroline denounce the claim of having this bill of sale to be another fake on Wallingford's part and incite the mob to lynch Wallingford and Blackie, Caroline Beegood particularly hating the latter because he had carried on a burlesque flirtation with her before she found that he was married.

A big fight ensues, but just as Wallingford and Blackie are about to be overcome and lynched, Jimmy, Mary and Toad come ashore in the motor boat, Toad having rescued the young couple. Jimmy and Toad jump up on the platform to fight at the sides of Wallingford and Blackie, but just as excitement is at its height, Jimmy looks up across the hills and sees his oil well, the Big Hope, spouting high above its derrick and tearing the derrick to pieces. The Big Hope is not a "fake". It is a genuine gusher as all can see, and the citizens who have invested in oil lots are no longer dupes, but rich men. They are easily led to forget their intention of lynching Wallingford and Daw and chase Henry to get their money back so as they can invest it in Wallingford's oil property. The bill of sale turns up in time for the sheriff to arrest the Beegoods, and on the sluice gate platform there is a happy reunion, and Mary promises to marry Jimmy, while Get Rich Quick Wallingford decides to mend his ways, and is convinced that what Lombroso said about lobeless ears is "bunk".

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SEP 19 1921

Register of Copyrights,
Library of Congress,
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I herewith respectfully request the return of the following named motion picture films deposited by me for registration of copyright in the name of

Vitagraph Co. of America

THE SON OF WALLINGFORD (8 reels)

Respectfully,

FULTON BRYLAWSKI.

The Vitagraph Co. of America hereby acknowledges the receipt of two copies each of the motion picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright Office as follows:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Deposit</u>	<u>Registration</u>
THE SON OF WALLINGFORD	9/20/21	L: ©CL 16976

Copies Returned

16 SEP 24 1921

By *Delmer*

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Fulton Brylawski O.K. B.F.T.

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